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*Per 1-1*  
(Dictated over phone by Helen Rhodes,  
Secretary to Mr. Stohl, Department  
of Defense)

September 16, 1947

United States Civil Service Commission  
Attention: Mr. Arthur F. Flemming

Gentlemen:

Approval of the Civil Service Commission is requested for the establishment within the immediate Office of the Secretary of Defense of the following positions as excepted positions under Schedule A of the Civil Service Rules:

1. Two private secretaries or confidential assistants to the Secretary of Defense. This request is in keeping with similar exceptions already approved by the Commission for the War Department and the Navy Department (Sections 4(1) and 5(1) of Schedule A).

2. Two chauffeurs for the Secretary of Defense in line with the exceptions granted to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy (Section 4(11) and Section 5(vi) of Schedule A).

3. Five special advisers to the Secretary of Defense. In view of the heavy responsibilities placed upon the Secretary of Defense, under the provisions of Public Law 253, 80th Congress, it is essential that he have freedom in making personnel selections of high-caliber people to serve as his immediate advisers in exercising these responsibilities. Because of the necessarily confidential and policy-forming character of the duties which will be performed for the Secretary of Defense by these special advisers, it will not be practical to make appointments to these positions through competitive examinations.

Approval of the Civil Service Commission is also requested for the establishment within the National Security Resources Board, under Schedule A, of six positions of special advisers and research assistants to the Chairman. The National Security Resources Board, under Section 103(c) of Public Law 253, 80th Congress, is given highly responsible and vital functions in connection with advising the President concerning the coordination of military, industrial, and civilian mobilization. It will be essential that the Chairman of this Board have on his immediate staff a small number of high-caliber people upon whom he can rely for advice and assistance on special problems which may arise in connection with the operations of the Board. Because of the necessarily confidential and policy-forming character of the duties which will be performed for the Chairman by these special advisers and research assistants, it will not be practical to make appointments to these positions through competitive examinations.

Approval of the Civil Service Commission is also requested for the establishment of all civilian positions within the National Security Council as excepted positions under Schedule A. The National Security Council is established by Section 101, Public Law 253, 80th Congress, for the purpose of more

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effectively coordinating the policies and functions of the departments and agencies of the Government relating to national security. Its Chairman is the President of the United States, and its membership is composed of the heads of the chief executive departments of the Government. The civilian staff of the National Security Council will be very small--probably not exceeding 25 persons. The nature of the work of this Council makes it imperative that there be considerable freedom of choice in the selection of civilian personnel. The incumbents of a majority of the positions which will be established under the Council will be engaged in the performance of work of the greatest responsibility and of a highly confidential nature. In view of these facts, it does not appear to be practical to make appointments to the civilian positions under the Council through competitive examinations. Attention is also called to the fact that all positions in the Central Intelligence Agency, which, under Section 102(a) of Public Law 253, 80th Congress, is established under the National Security Council, have been included in Schedule A (20) (1) as excepted positions.

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The Civil Service Commission has also approved certain positions in a Joint Research and Development Board as excepted positions under Schedule A. These positions are named in Section 4 xvi of Schedule A. Section 214 of Public Law 253, 80th Congress, establishes a Research and Development Board within the National Military Establishment and provides for the transfer to this new Board of all the records and personnel of the Joint Research and Development Board. We, therefore, request approval of the positions listed in Section 4 xvi of Schedule A as excepted positions within the Research and Development Board as of the date the Joint Research and Development Board ceases to exist under the provisions of Section 214(c) of Public Law 253, 80th Congress.

The positions covered by this letter represent those positions on which we should like to request immediate action by the Commission. If additional excepted positions are necessary in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, or the National Security Resources Board, subsequent requests will be submitted with detailed explanations as to the reasons for the requested exception.

Very truly yours,

Ralph H. Stahl  
Acting Administrative Officer  
Office of the Secretary of Defense--  
Designate